



EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020

Proposal from the Commission

ESPON 2013 Programme – Open seminar

European Territorial Evidence for
EU Cohesion Policy and Programming

Aalborg, 13 June 2012

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DG for Regional Policy



Main issues

1. Commission proposal for 2014-2020:

What are the objectives?

What are the main changes?

What about territorial cohesion?



1. What are the objectives?

Objectives

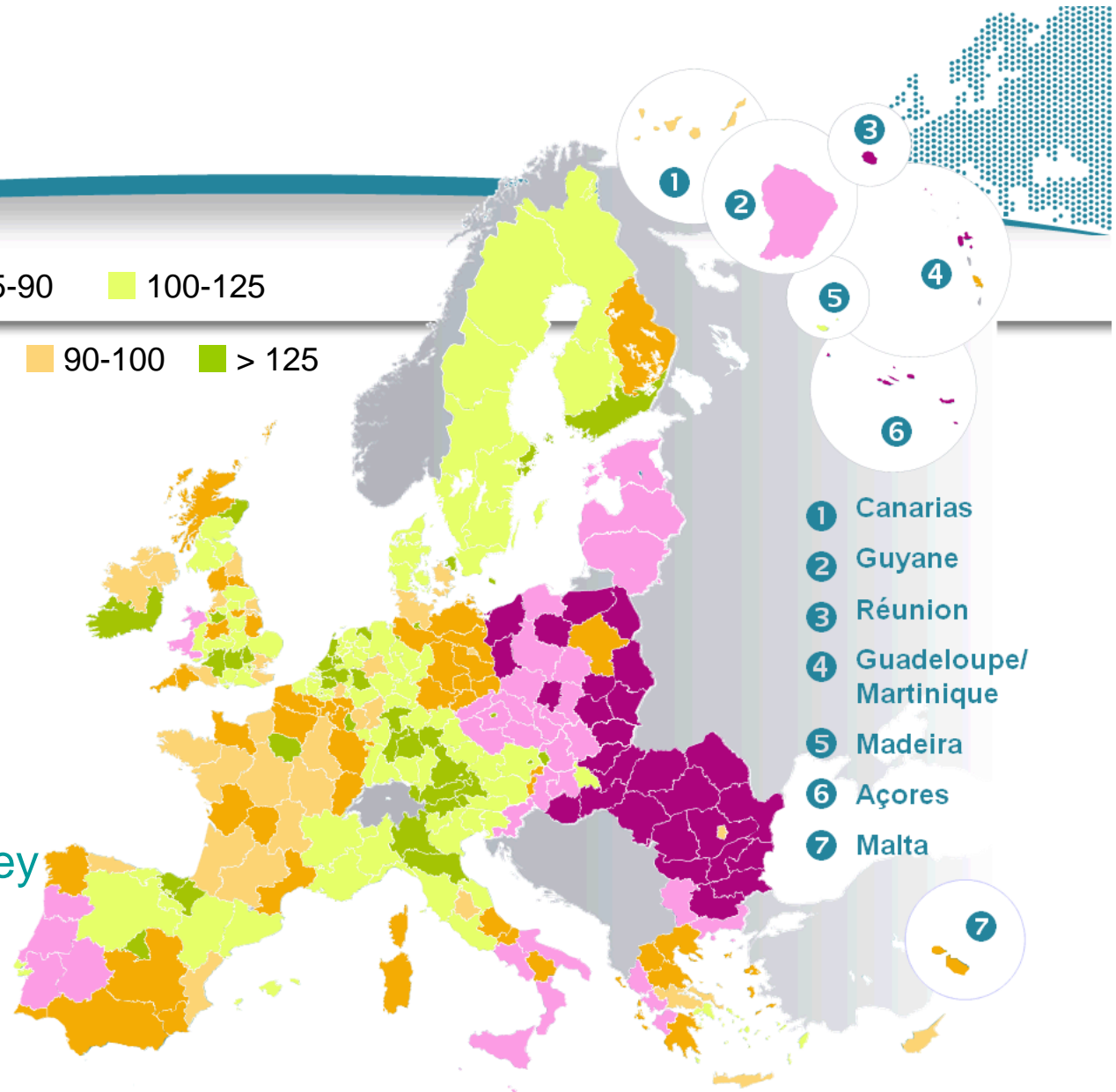
GDP/capita* ■ < 50 ■ 75-90 ■ 100-125

*index EU27=100 ■ 50-75 ■ 90-100 ■ > 125

Disparities decreased in time...

... but are still important

► Closing these gaps through regional/local development remains a key objective



Regional GDP figures: 2006-07-08
© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries



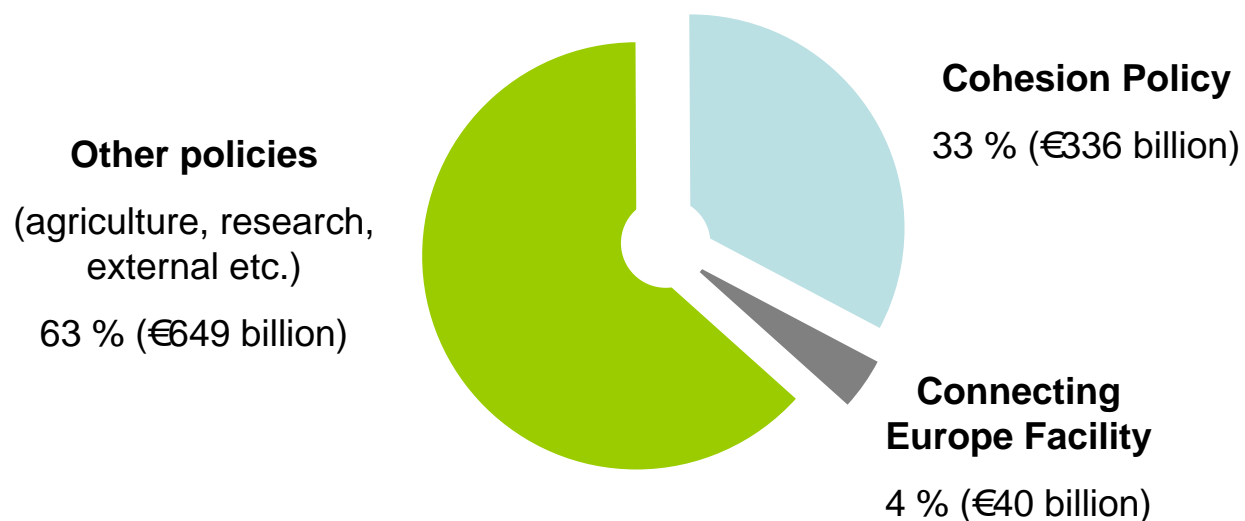
Objectives

Closing the gaps but at the same time...

- Deliver the Europe 2020 strategy objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Focus on results
- Maximise the impact of EU funding

Proposed EU budget 2014-2020

“Ambitious but realistic” proposals issued by the Commission in June 2011 for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020





2. What are the main changes?



Reinforcing effectiveness and performance

- ***Focus on results***
Common & programme-specific indicators, reporting, monitoring & evaluation
- ***Performance framework for all programmes***
Clear and measurable milestones and targets
- ***Performance reserve***
5 % of national allocations (by Member State, fund and category of region)
- ***Ex-ante and ex-post conditionality***
Ensuring conditions for effective investment are in place
- ***Macro-economic conditionality***
Alignment with broad economic governance



Enhanced strategic approach



- Comprehensive investment strategy: aligned with Europe 2020 objectives
- Coherence with National Reform Programmes
- Coordination: cohesion policy, rural development, maritime & fisheries funds




Concentration of resources - Menu of thematic objectives

- *Research & innovation*
- *Information and communication technologies*
- *Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*
- *Shift towards a low-carbon economy*
- *Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management*
- *Environmental protection & resource efficiency*
- *Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures*
- *Employment & supporting labour mobility*
- *Social inclusion & combating poverty*
- *Education, skills & lifelong learning*
- *Institutional capacity building*

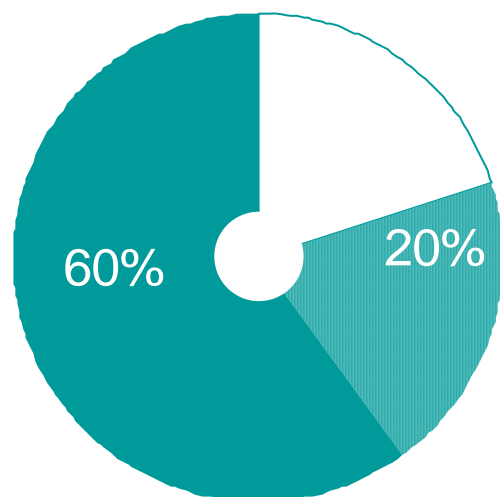
Earmarking - Concentrating resources to maximise impact

Concentration of ERDF investments

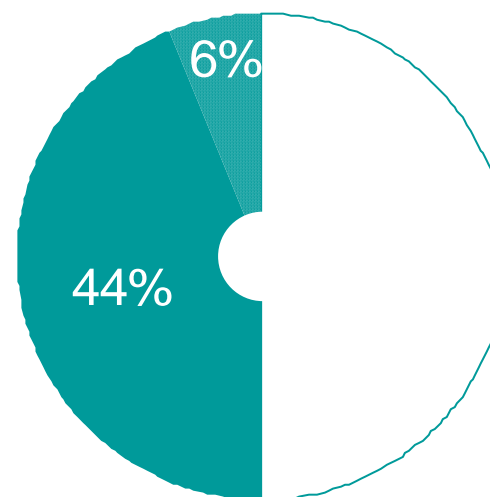
 Energy efficiency & renewable energy

 Research & innovation

 Competitiveness of SMEs



More developed & transitional regions



Less developed regions

Flexibility – different regions have different needs
Special arrangements for ex-convergence regions



3. What about territorial cohesion?



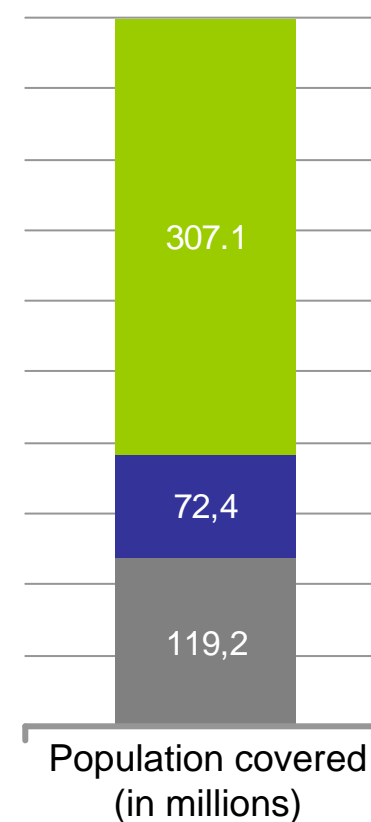
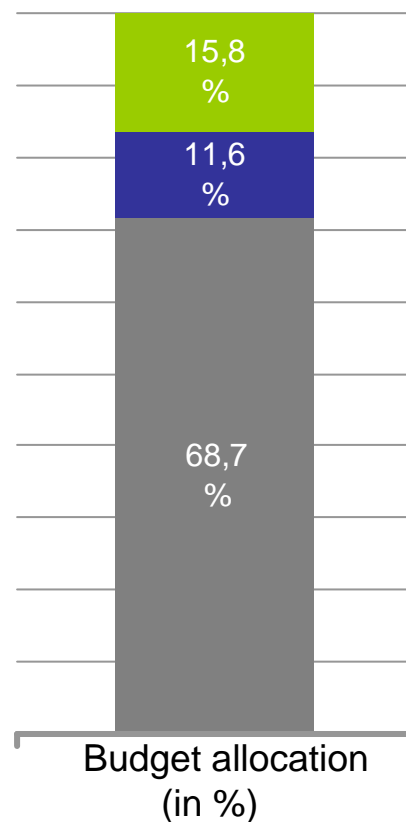
Reinforcing Territorial Cooperation

- Separate regulation
- Increase of financial resources (+30 %)
- Concentration of programmes on up to 4/5 thematic objectives
- Simplified programme management (merger of managing and certifying authorities)
- Easier creation of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

Budget allocation

Less developed regions/MS
 Transition regions
 More developed regions

Cohesion Fund ¹	68.7
Less developed regions	162.6
Transition regions	38.9
More developed regions	53.1
European Territorial Cooperation	11.7
Outermost regions and sparsely populated areas	0.9
Total	336.0



¹ €10 billion from the Cohesion Fund will be allocated to the Connecting Europe Facility



The territorial dimension of future cohesion policy

- **In the partnership contracts:**
 - ✓ Territorial development strategy aligned to Europe 2020 (e.g. smart specialisation)
- **In the Operational Programmes:**
 - ✓ **Community-led local development** (art. 28-31)
 - ✓ **Integrated Territorial Investments** (art. 99)
 - ✓ **Innovative urban actions** (art. 9 ERDF)





The territorial dimension of future cohesion policy

Community-Led Local Development (*articles 28-31 of the Common Provisions regulation*)

- **Integrated** and **multi-sectoral place-based** local development strategies focused on **sub-regional territories**
- Led by **local action groups** composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests
- Tailored to **local needs and potential**





The territorial dimension of future cohesion policy

Integrated Territorial Investment (article 99 of the Common provisions regulation)

- Tool for implementing **territorial development strategies** requiring investments under **more than one priority axis or operational programme**
- Target a **designated territory** (e.g. specific urban neighbourhoods; multi-regions area; network of small-sized cities)
- Can be **implemented by a Managing Authority**, or an **intermediate body** (e.g. local authorities, regional development bodies, NGOs)





The territorial dimension of future cohesion policy

Innovative Urban Actions

ERDF will support innovative actions targeting urban areas:

- ***Focused on sustainable urban development***
At least 5 % of ERDF resources
- ***Creation of urban development platform***
Networking between cities and exchanges on urban policy
- ***Pilot projects for sustainable urban development***
Subject to a ceiling of 0.2 % of the annual funding





The territorial dimension of future cohesion policy

Contribution from the Research Community

- Need for more robust – RESULT - indicators able to better capture and quantify the specific needs of specific territories
- More extensive research on the ground is needed:
 - ✓ To accumulate more reliable knowledge of the territories
 - ✓ To better understand the drivers of change in territories
 - ✓ To provide evidence of the added value of the integrated approach
 - ✓ To find out TRENDS that can be generalised





http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/index_en.cfm#1
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm

**Thank you for your
attention!**